(b) the assistance being provided by Government for the study and the conditions in this regard;

(c) the action taken by Government against the doctors who have not returned back to the country so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Corneal blindness

4536. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of corneal blindness has been increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the various programmes and plans followed by Government to assess the status of corneal blindness from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Periodic surveys are conducted to assess causes of blindness. National survey (1986-89) indicated that corneal blindness accounted for 1.52% of blindness. Recent survey conducted in 2001-2002 indicated that only 0.9% blindness was due to corneal causes.

Research work in AIIMS

4537. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that AIIMS doctors are unable to do research due to pressure of work;

(b) if so, the research that has been done in AIIMS during the last three years;

(c) the findings of these researches; and

(d) what way these researches have been useful to the people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) All India Institute of Medical Sciences is a premier Institute which has been carrying out research on topics of national importance since its inception. The institute faculty published various research papers in reputed indexed journals and there are 371 national and international research projects running during the year 2002-2003. The research areas include basic biology, epidemiology, clinical and applied sciences. Various research activities of national importance include works in the field of malaria, leprosy, tuberculosis, endocrinological disorders, cataract and childhood diarrhoea, etc.

Opening of CGHS dispensary in Pushpanjali and West Pitampura

4538. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no CGHS dispensary for more than 3000 CGHS beneficiaries residing in Pushpanjali and West Pitampura; and

(b) if so, by when a CGHS dispensary is likely to be opened in that area as a welfare measure for retired/senior CGHS beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. For availing dispensary facilities, the CGHS beneficiaries residing in Pushpanjali and West Pitampura are attached with the CGHS dispensary Shakurbasti located at a distance of about 3 to 4 kms.

(b) Due to constraints of resources and manpower, there is no proposal at present to open a new CGHS dispensary in the above mentioned areas.

Health schemes under PMGY in Andhra Pradesh

4539. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of additional Central assistance provided to various States including Andhra Pradesh for funding various health schemes under PMGY by Planning Commission during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the details of utilisation of funds by various State Governments, health scheme-wise;

(c) the guidelines for utilisation of PMGY funds for procurement of drugs and medical equipments;